

EPA Climate Change and Water News

August 8, 2012

The *EPA Climate Change and Water News* is a bi-weekly newsletter from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Water that features news and information about EPA and other federal activities related to climate change and water. Partner activities, as well as related events and publications, are also included.

For more information on climate change and water, please visit our website:
<http://www.epa.gov/water/climatechange>.

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U.S. EPA News

EPA to Host Webcast: "Ways to Beat the Heat: Effective Approaches to Heat Island Reduction" on Wednesday, August 8, 2012, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. EDT

Urban heat islands can affect communities by increasing summertime peak energy demand, air conditioning costs, air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, heat-related illness and mortality, as well as by reducing water quality. During this webcast, audiences can learn about the strategies for taking local action to reduce urban heat islands. Hear from local governments and organizations on urban heat island reduction examples, implementation strategies, and plans for monitoring and evaluation. Cities will share lessons learned on how to design and implement effective programs and policies, including cool pavement, shade trees, and cool roofs. EPA will host this webcast on effective approaches to heat island reduction on Wednesday, August 8, 2012 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. EDT. Register for this webcast at: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/566727666>.

Other Federal Agency News

U.S. Global Change Research Program to Hold National Climate Assessment and Development Advisory Committee Meeting on Wednesday, August 15, 2012

The National Climate Assessment, conducted under the Global Change Research Act of 1990, will be submitted to the President and Congress in 2013. This report integrates, evaluates, and interprets the findings of the U.S. Global Change Research Program. The report will analyze the effects of global change on the natural environment, agriculture, energy production and use, land and water resources, transportation, human health and welfare, human social systems, and biological diversity. It will also analyze current trends in global change, both human-induced and natural, and will project major trends for the subsequent 25 to 100 years. The National Climate Assessment and Development Advisory Committee will hold a public meeting on August 15, 2012 in Washington, D.C. to provide a status update on the 2013 Report as well as an opportunity to listen to public comments. For more information on how to join the teleconference and/or to attend in person, please visit: http://www.nesdis.noaa.gov/NCADAC/August_15_Meeting.html.

Other News

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences Publishes Scientific Paper Online: *Perception of Climate Change*

James E. Hansen, a prominent NASA climate scientist and the head of the Goddard Institute for Space Studies, along with two co-authors, published a scientific paper this week in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. "Climate dice," describing the chance of unusually warm or cool seasons, have become more and more "loaded" in the past 30 years, coincident with rapid global warming. The distribution of seasonal mean temperature anomalies has shifted toward higher temperatures and the range of anomalies has increased. An important change is the emergence of a category of summertime extremely hot outliers, more than three standard deviations warmer than the climatology of the 1951-1980 base period. This hot extreme, which covered much less than 1% of Earth's surface during the base period, now typically covers about 10% of the land area. The paper discusses the practical implications of this substantial, growing, climate change. To read the paper, please visit: <http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2012/07/30/1205276109.abstract>.

National Academies Releases Report - *Preparing for the Third Decade (Cycle 3) of the National Water-Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Program (2012)*

In its first two decades, the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) National Water Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Program has provided a successful and useful assessment of U.S. water-quality conditions, how they have changed over time, and how natural features and human activities have affected those conditions. Now, planning is underway for the third decade (Cycle 3) of the Program, as outlined in USGS's Science Plan. The program faces many challenges, including maintaining the NAWQA program despite declining resources, balancing new activities with long-term studies, and maintaining focus amidst competing stakeholder demands. USGS's forward-thinking vision for the next decade of the program builds on the previous cycles' data, experience, and products. In order to meet the national needs outlined in the plan, NAWQA would need to emphasize collaboration with other USGS and external programs, with other federal agencies, state and local governments, and with the private sector. For more information, please visit: <http://dels.nas.edu/Report/Preparing-Third-Decade-Cycle/13464>.

National Academies Releases Publication - *Disaster Resilience: A National Imperative*

No person or place is immune from disasters or disaster-related losses. Infectious disease outbreaks, acts of terrorism, social unrest, or financial disasters, in addition to natural hazards, can all lead to large-scale consequences for the nation and its communities. Communities thus face difficult fiscal, social, cultural, and environmental choices about the best ways to ensure basic security and quality of life against hazards, deliberate attacks, and disasters. One way to reduce the impacts of disasters on the nation's communities is to invest in enhancing resilience - the ability to prepare and plan for, absorb, recover from, and more successfully adapt to adverse events. *Disaster Resilience: A National Imperative* addresses the broad issue of increasing the nation's resilience to disasters. This report describes the state of knowledge about resilience to hazards and disasters, and frames key issues related to increasing

resilience in the United States. It also provides goals, baseline conditions, or performance metrics for national resilience and outlines additional information, data, gaps, and/or obstacles that need to be addressed to increase the nation's resilience to disasters. For more information, please visit: http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=13457.

The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy Makes On-Line Course Available: *Local Communities Adapting to Climate Change*

Local Communities Adapting to Climate Change is adapted from a two-day course that uses videos, interactive exercises, and self-assessments, to introduce tools for climate change adaptation planning, assessing climate change risks, climate downscaling, collaborative decision-making, and scenario planning. Decision makers can use these practical tools for everyday land use, development, and infrastructure decisions to reduce vulnerability and enhance resilience. The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy focuses on issues concerning the use, regulation, and taxation of land. The Institute strives to improve public dialogue and decisions about land policy through education, research, policy evaluation, demonstration projects, and the dissemination of information and policy analysis. The course is free, although one must register to access it. For more information, please visit: <http://www.lincolninst.edu/education/education-coursedetail.asp?id=836>.